

REMARKS

This reply is submitted in response to the Final Office Action dated July 20, 2010.

Claim Amendments

Claim 7 is amended with the phrase “the olefin stream containing the oxygenate contaminants is dewatered, compressed and dried before fractionation” derived from the specification as filed at paragraph [0012]. No new matter is added.

Section 103 Rejection

Claims 7-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,303,841 to Senetar et al. (hereinafter “Senetar”). The Applicants traverse.

In particular, *Senetar* does not disclose “the olefin stream containing the oxygenate contaminants is quenched (dewatered), compressed and dried before fractionation.” *Senetar* states specifically the order and arrangement of that invention at column 4:

Applicant discovered that by employing an initial demethanizer separation in the ethylene recovery zone with a separation process such as a PSA zone wherein the PSA zone contained an adsorbent which was selective for the adsorption of ethylene relative to methane and hydrogen, and the desorbed stream was recombined with the oxygenate conversion process effluent stream, the demethanizer temperature could be increased to about 40° C. with significant overall process benefits. This savings appears to be greatest in the separation of components such as ethylene from oxygenate conversion process effluent streams wherein the critical molar ratio of materials more volatile than ethylene, such as hydrogen and methane, to the total moles of ethylene and ethane is less than about 0.5.

The object of the *Senatar* disclosure is to save money by having a fractionation and PSA stage prior to be able to raise the temperature of second fractionator (demethanizer) by providing an “initial” fractionation.

The Applicant, on the other hand, is specifically avoiding this arrangement in *Senatar*. In particular, as the amended claim makes clear, the claimed process initially treats “the olefin stream containing the oxygenate contaminants [by] quenched (dewatered), compressed and dried before fractionation.” The Examiner cites Figure 2 as disclosing the claimed invention, but as amended, Figure 2 does not disclose what is claimed. For instance, element 124 in Figure 2 is the “dryer” used to remove water. This occurs after compression (compressor 118) and methanol wash (120). Thus, *Senatar* does not disclose the claimed embodiment.

Applicant respectfully requests the rejection be withdrawn.

It is believed that all objections and rejections having been overcome and this application is in condition for allowance. If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated, since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned. If necessary to affect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to affect a timely response. Please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1712 (Docket #: 2001B133 US).

Respectfully submitted,

September 17, 2010
Date

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